bonvenon

for laurie spiegel

(2022)

rachel devorah wood rome

According to the Drake equation, humanity is unlikely to be the only advanced technological civilization in our galaxy. How would contact with another civilization rerender what it means to be human?

bonvenon for laurie spiegel (2022) is immersive creative research into what communication with another civilization might sound like to humans.

The hornist and the live electronics player transfigure archival audio materials in real-time from Messiaen's "Appel interstellaire"(1971); Blind Willie Johnson's "Dark was the night, cold was the ground"(1927); The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Wood Thrush" recording collection (2016-2020); a sun data sonification by A. Kosovichev from the Stanford Experimental Physics Lab/ESA+NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (1997); as well as an original sonification of prime Pythagorean triangles by the composer recorded by Driftless Winds. Visual materials are collaged by the composer from Voyager Golden Record (1977), Arecibo message (1974) archives, and improvisation by Darryl Davis of the Hayden Planetarium, Museum of Science (Boston) based on the sonic materials.

General Technical Description of Performance:

- 12:30" fixed video is projected for audience in the hall
- 12:30" fixed stereo audio track is heard in PA system
- Hornist and live electronics player perform on stage together (below or beside video projection)
- Live electronics player is heard in the hall *locally* from a stage monitor beside them
- One sound source for live electronics player is a microphone picking up the hornist
- Hornist and live electronics player need a cue from hall engineer for when fixed video and stereo audio begins

Mixed Electronics

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for horn and mixed electronics

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00:00

00:30 **(tacet until C)**

A horn plays

1:00

2:30

B horn plays

3:30

fixed media:

sun sonification

birds

birds

4:20

C **"canyon" time-delay effects on horn, medium**

horn plays

5:00

5:30

D **canyon effects on horn**

horn plays

6:20

E **canyon effects on horn**

horn call

7:00

F **canyon effects on horn**

horn plays

sun sonification

triangles

birds

birds

8:34

G **try to sound like a bird**

horn plays

8:30

10:00

10:20

H horn call

11:30

I **canyon effects on horn**

horn plays

12:00

J horn tacet

12:30

triangles

sun sonification

sun sonification

birds

Horn in F

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